

IG Farben
Albert Norden
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When the New York bulletin "Germany Today" reported last year that IG Farben leader Dr. Georg von Schnitzler greeted the incoming Americans with the words: " Gentlemen, it is a pleasure to work with you again," Heinrich Mann told me in a letter how, during a soirée that took place in 1925, Mr. von Schnitzler's wife tried to prove to him , Heinrich Mann, the necessity of a war - against the Russians, of course. It was the year in which Germany, through the Locarno Pact, took an important step on the path that led to estrangement with the Soviet Union. I thought of Heinrich Mann's letter while reading the reports from high officials of the US War Department on the IG Farben complex, which were published by the US Senate Committee on Military Affairs. It is a sensational document, sensational because Hitler's backers have their say here - as prisoners. They reveal what they thought they were planning, executing. Here we find the minutes of their internal deliberations, the originals or copies of their ukase to the innsteries of the countries subjugated by Hitler, a plan they came up with to "reorganize" Europe. In short, a true panorama of aggression against an entire world is here. Mr. von Schnitzler himself speaks here, and his statements during his interrogations by American officers are the fatal self-accusation of a caste that plunged Germany and the world into the Second World War.

Dr. Georg von Schnitzler, member of the directorium of IG-farben and chairman of the all-powerful trade committees of the trust said during questioning on September 7th 1945: "Through its activities, IG-Farben has the Hitlerian foreign politics provided decisive assistance to a foreign policy that led to dum crime and the ruin of Germany. I must admit that IG Farben is largely responsible for Hitler's policies."

With its 380 German and over 500 foreign companies, IG Farben was indeed a colossal empire. It was (or still is?!) the largest Chemical trust in the world, larger even than DuPont in America and far more important than England's Imperial Chemical Industries. Geheimrat (Leading Advisor) Duisberg revealed what the masters of this trust were dreaming of when, even before Hitler came to power, he spoke of the block that would stretch from Odessa to the Atlantic. The document presented to the Military Committee of the American Senate proves that the influential IG Farben directors Bütetisch and Gattineau were in personal contact with Hitler as early as 1932, who promised them generous support for their experiments in the production of synthetic oil if he came to power. A few months later, in February 1933, the leading German industrialists gathered in Hitler's Reich Chancellery and donated 3 million marks to the Nazi Party's election fund. The largest sum was given by Geheimrat Schmitz and Dr. von Schnitzler on behalf of the IG. It paid off handsomely.

The trust's gross profit, which was known to be relatively less affected by the Great Depression, was 48 million marks in 1936, 231 million in 1937, 363 in 1939 and increased to 822 million marks in 1943. The trust's income from its sales reached a record high of 3.116 billion marks in 1943. IG- Farben's exports accounted for 10 percent of total German exports.

The trust's generous investments in the Trust's military-important companies began around 1934. While autarkic aspects initially applied, "since 1936, purely military aspects were in the foreground. Hand in hand with this, the relations between the IG and the Wehrmacht

became more intimate, and the result was a deepening connection between the IG Directorate on the one hand and the Wehrmacht representatives on the other hand (statement by Schnitzler from August 4, 1945.)

That's why the IG set up a military liaison agency, the so-called Vermittlungsstelle (agency?) W. To those who perhaps still believe that the German chemical tycoons were acting out of patriotic motives, for example to secure the German borders, Mr. von Schnitzler reveals: "It was impossible for the IG Farben directors or other industrialists to believe that the arms production and the preparation for war, which reached incredible proportions in 1938, could mean anything other than that the government was determined to wage war, come what may. No one in the IG could believe that this was all done for defense purposes. We in the IG and all other German industrialists were fully aware of this fact." And despite this, or precisely because of this, they went along with it, not passively, but enthusiastically, because of the profit that this rearmament brought, and the even greater profit that the war brought, made the economic kings of the "Third Reich" ready for any crime.

First of all, they set up a spy organization for the Wehrmacht whose network spanned the entire world. The headquarters of this apparatus was the mysterious "NW-7 Office" in Berlin, and at its head was none other than Dr. Max Illgner, nephew of the President of the Supervisory Board of IG-Farben, Geheimrat Hermann Schmitz. The numerous domestic and foreign employees of NW 7 - the budget was over 7 million marks in 1943 - were paid exclusively by IG Farben, but worked full-time for the Wehrmacht. It turns out that the most effective industrial espionage of the "Third Reich" was actually organized and financed by the largest trust in Germany. The German General Staff and especially the Air Force - Schnitzler made this clear during his interrogations - would have been in great difficulty without the materials procured by NW 7.

The IG Farben representatives abroad were Nazi spy agents. This is not an unprovable claim. On September 10, 1937, the Trade Committee of the Directorate, chaired by Schnitzler, passed a resolution in the Tar that stated:

"Under no circumstances will people be sent to our foreign branches and companies who do not adopt an affirmative attitude towards the new order. They should make it their special task to represent National Socialist Germany abroad. You must be particularly advised to get in touch with the local groups of the various national groups. Cooperation with the foreign organization must become more organic."

So it became. NW 7 selected the "sellers" for abroad, and State Secretary Bohle's organization had in them magnificent tools for their minierarbeit (Intelligence accumulation) work in the world. But the cooperation of IG-Farben with the Keitels (Nazi Generals) went even further. As if from one of the Americans According to Mr. von Schnitzler's letter dated April 3, 1940, he founded a "sales promotion company" that under the guise of trading provided important services to the Wehrmacht High Command abroad.

Behind Hitler's aggressive armies came the hyenas of IG Farben. Austria became the first big prize. For years the trust had tried to take control of the Skoda-Wetzler-Werke powder factory. Vain. But as soon as Hitler annexed Austria, this great chemical work fell to Schmitz and Schnitzler like a ripe fruit. Schnitzler himself may say how this happened: "IG acquired the Skoda-Wetzler-Werke from the Deutsche Bank, which, together with the Nazi government, had acquired the works through theft." (Interrogation from August 8, 1945.)

The Austrian chemical industry, which had been swallowed up by the IG, had not yet been digested when preparations were already being made for the slaughter of Czechoslovakia. The prize in question here was the Association for Chemical and Metallurgical Production (Aussiger Association), the only large chemical company in Czechoslovakia, and the fourth largest in Europe. Three months before Munich, a meeting took place between the IG directors and the IG branch managers in Czechoslovakia to deal with this problem.

On September 23, 1938, IG Farben director Kühne wrote triumphantly to Schnitzler from Berlin that the Hitler government had approved the appointment of two IG Farben representatives as commissioners for the Aussiger Verein's works. Remember: it was still a week before Munich, but the loot of the chosen victim had already been distributed. Privy Councilor Schmitz had good reason when he telegraphed to Hitler at the beginning of September 1938: "Deeply impressed by the return of the Sudetenland to the Reich, which you, my leader, have achieved, the IG Farben is providing the amount of half a million Reichsmarks for use in the Sudeten German area at your disposal."

From annexation to annexation, the Trust's methods became more ruthless and cynical. Of course, the period of peaceful conquests was over. Schnitzler knew it. As early as July 1939, he, the deputy president of the "Chemical Economic Group", had been informed that Hitler would invade Poland in September. Of course, neither he nor his colleagues opposed. On the contrary, they only thought about using the opportunity to take advantage of new fishing movements.

A week after the start of the Second World War, on September 7, 1939, Schnitzler telegraphed the IG Farben representative office in Berlin to immediately enter into negotiations with the government so that IG Farben would receive the three largest Polish dyestuff factories (Boruta, Wola and Winnica). . The negotiations do not seem to have gone entirely smoothly, but in any case Schnitzler took care of the matter himself, and on September 29th two directors of the trust were appointed as commissioners of the Polish works, which later became the property of IG-farben.

In doing so, Schnitzler committed an act of infamy that one would not want to see if it were not on record. The partner of a global company whose German and foreign companies unite

Valued at a low estimated 7 billion marks, it was not appropriate to write to the Reich Economics Minister on September 14, 1939, pointing out that Wola was non-Aryan family property and therefore had no right to exist. Hett Funk didn't have to be told twice, the owners of Wola were moving to the concentration camp and to death for the greater fame and profit of the laughing heirs of the IG. So the blood of the Jews was immediately transformed into the gold of the paint trust.

After all this, the ruthlessness with which Schnitzler, as head of the German negotiating partners, brought the French chemical industry under the IG Farben dictate in 1940 is not surprising obligation.

During the interrogation on July 17, 1945, the following dialogue developed between the investigating officer and Schnitzler:

"Did you ask for a percentage of the French dye industry?"

"I demanded leadership. I can't say whether we mentioned a specific percentage in the first memorandum." "On what premise was the memorandum based?" "I have never received any other sum from the French than 51 percent required."

"They demanded 51 percent of the French dye industry.

Never less?"

"Never less."

He got the 51 percent and practically the entire French chemical industry. After the conquest of France, the IG- Farben leaders thought the Second World War had been won.

On August 3, 1940, they submitted a memorandum to the Reich government under the title "Neuordnung" (New Order), which fell into the hands of the Americans during the occupation of Germany and was also revealed in the Senate Military Committee. This document, several hundred pages long, outlines the plans for the paint and chemical industry of every European country, which was either to be destroyed or brought into absolute dependence on IG-farben. England was not forgotten: Germany, i.e. IG Farben, should be guaranteed a 30 percent share of the turnover of the British chemical industry and that all chemical and paint products not produced in England should be imported exclusively from Germany. In addition, the English dyestuffs and chemical companies should in fact be banned from any export, especially to Europe. This also included European and Asian Russia, a significant indication of the fate of colonization that was also intended for the Soviet Union in the summer of 1940.

We've talked about robbery so far. We come to the topic of murder. It cannot be concealed or denied that the gentlemen of IG- Farben took part in the gassing of millions in the eastern concentration camps. The confessions are available.

In 1938, the Hitler government, dissatisfied with the current development of poison gas production, asked the IG Farben to take up the matter. New factories were immediately built to produce these gases, and during the war IG Farben produced 95 percent of Germany's poison gases. The investigation by the American and British authorities revealed that the IG Farben works in Wuppertal-Elberfeld were producing the most murderous gas in the world, unknown to the Allied nations, and penetrating every gas mask in existence. And now let Senator Harley M. Kilgore speak, the chairman of the Senate committee, in whose meetings the crimes of the IG Farben men came to light to a public that hardly took any notice of them: "When I was in Frankfurt (December 1945), Just questioned Schmitz, the president of IG-farben, and on that day he admitted that he had done everything to get Hitler to use an absolutely deadly poison gas. Hitler had hesitated, and Schmitz condemned him because he believed it would have helped Germany win." But it didn't stop with theoretical discussions about the use of poisonous gas, in which the worthy Geheimrat committed even greater cruelty than Hitler. The day was put in. The IG-Farben led the way.

He carried out poison gas experiments on people and used concentration camp inmates. Dr. Ter Meer, one of the leading scientists and directors of the IG, not only justified this murder at the Vetin on the grounds that the concentration camp prisoners would have been killed anyway - he had the nerve to describe these deadly experiments on defenseless prisoners as humanitarian because they meant life would have been saved by countless Germans. After the experiments were successful, the SS could begin gassing millions. The SS alone? The gentlemen of IG-farben confessed that the largest massacre in world history, the extermination

of European Jews in Auschwitz (Oświęcim), was organized by the SS together with IG-farben directors.

Let's listen to the key witness Dr. from Schnitzler: "In the last quarter of 1944 - it was probably the end of November or beginning of December - Dr. Müller-Cunradi confided to me that terrible things were happening in the Auschwitz concentration camps, that people were being killed there by gas and that IG Farben products were being used. I asked him: 'Do others know about it?*' To which he replied: 'Yes, Ambros (an IG director) and the other IG people in Auschwitz know it.' I made a comment to Schmitz (chairman of the IG supervisory board) about terrible events in connection with Auschwitz. In my opinion he must have known about them." To be on the safe side, the interrogating officer brought up the complex again the next day: "You told Bestern that a Müller-Cunradi informed you that the IG's poison gases were used to murder people in the concentration camp."

"That's how I understood him."

"Have you questioned your subordinates further about the use of the gases?"

They told me that they knew about the use of the gases for this purpose.

"What did you do after you were told that IG products were used to murder people in concentration camps?"

"I was horrified."

"Have you done anything about this?"

"I kept it to myself. I asked Müller-Cunradi whether he, Ambros and the other directors at Auschwitz (where the IG had a factory) knew that the gases and chemicals were used to murder slave laborers (Menschen Dienen, possibly closer to people in servitude) ."

"What did he say?"

"He said: Yes, all IG directors in Auschwitz are informed about it."

The statement is from July 17, 1945.

After all this, the question is permissible: When will the monsters who helped prepare Hitler's war for profit, spread a Nazi espionage network across the earth and took part in the transformation of Europe into a human slaughterhouse, be brought to justice? Why has the date of the trial against the masters of the world's largest chemical trust still not been set?

Die Weltbühne (The World Stage), 1946, No. 4, pp. 104-108.

Die Weltbühne had been the magazine of Carl von Ossietzky, who had published details about German secret rearmament during the Weimar period. After the end of WW2 it was reopened in Berlin by his wife, Maud von Ossietzky, and Hans Leonhard